



## **American Center Asmara 2010 End of Year Report**

Two thousand and ten was a banner year for the American Center of the U.S. Embassy in Asmara. There were more than 35,000 individual visits to use the Internet and information services at the American Center. More than 2,500 people attended the monthly lecture series and special events throughout the year, including the Deaf Awareness Exhibition and the International Education Week Celebration. The American Center partnered with a number of local organizations and individuals throughout the year. Following are some highlights:

From March 19-28 more than 51,000 individuals visited the American Center's booth at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Eritrean Book Fair. Our staff promoted the American Center services and events and distributed 2,300 free publications in English and Arabic.



The American Center sponsored a children's photo contest in April. Twenty-one children were each given a disposable camera and asked to photograph their "Ideal Day in Asmara." The photos were enlarged and displayed at the Casa Del Italia restaurant in Asmara. More than 150 guests attended the reception.

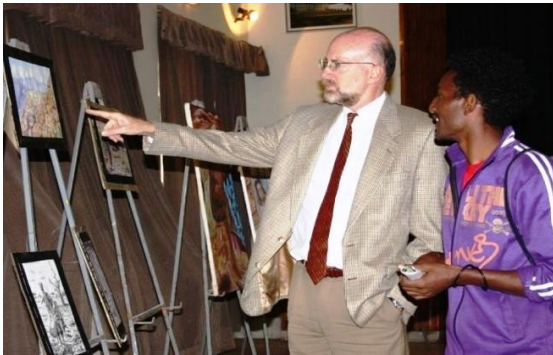
During May and June, the Center hosted its second annual Summer English and Art Enrichment Program. One-hundred and fifty students from grades 4-7 participated in the eight week program. The courses, taught by two Embassy Asmara summer hire employees, focused on vocabulary-building, developing listening and speaking skills, and experience working with different art forms.





A group of high school students, who would soon report to Sawa for their senior year of high school, asked the Center for time and space to display their artwork after they were turned down by another diplomatic mission. Ambassador McMullen was among the 60 visitors who attended the Youth Art Exhibition on July 8.

During the week of August 16, the American Center partnered with a local artist who taught a series of art classes for sixty 10-15 year old students. The Center provided the students with a small bag and art supplies for their participation in the course.



On September 16 the American Center co-hosted a Deaf Awareness Exhibition with the Eritrean Deaf Association. Members of the association produced a short drama illustrating some of the challenges the deaf community faces in Eritrea. The event also included a fashion show of both traditional and modern styles designed by members of the deaf community.

To honor Eritrea's teachers and World Teacher's Day, the American Center hosted an English Teacher's Open House on October 7. English teachers, school directors, and representatives of several teachers' associations were invited to attend and review IIP English language teaching materials available for their use.



In November we celebrated International Education Week with two guest speakers and over 200 participants interested in studying in the United States. Ms. Lidia Rozdilsky, spouse of an Embassy officer, shared lessons from her experience as a foreign student in the United States. Dr. Sara Ogbay, a Professor from the College of Arts and Social Sciences, offered tips on writing personal statements for graduate school admissions.

We finished the year with a very busy December, including a graduation ceremony for 27 high school students who participated in a month-long fitness training course. Charge d'Affaires Joel Reifman presented the students with certificates for their participation.

The staff at the American Center and U.S. Embassy Asmara would like to thank all the patrons, lecturers, and organizations who partnered and participated with us this year. The Center, its services, and these activities are at the core of strengthening friendships between the people of Eritrea and the people of the United States.